

Juan Morado, Jr.
71 South Wacker Drive, Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60606-4637
Direct Dial: 312.212.4967
jmorado@beneschlaw.com

September 26, 2019

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HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

VIA FEDEX

Courtney Avery
Board Administrator
Health Facilities and Services Review Board
Illinois Department of Public Health
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital of Libertyville, Project #19-036 - Letter of Support – Managing Partner, Jonathan Citow, MD

Dear Ms. Avery:

Enclosed please find a letter of support for Project #19-036, Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital of Libertyville from Managing Partner at American Center for Spine and Neurosurgery, LLC, Jonathan Citow, MD.

If you have any questions or need any additional information regarding the project, please feel free to contact me via phone at 312-212-4967 or via email at <a href="Morado@beneschlaw.com">JMorado@beneschlaw.com</a>. You can also contact my colleague Mark J. Silberman, via phone at 312-212-4952 or via email at <a href="MSilberman@beneschlaw.com">MSilberman@beneschlaw.com</a> with any questions.

Very truly yours,

BENESCH, FRIEDLANDER, COPLAN & ARONOFF LLP

Juan Morado, Jr.

JM:mls Enclosure

cc: George Roate, Project Reviewer



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712 S. Milwaukee Avenue, Libertyville, IL 60048 Toll-free: (855) 526-1100 Fax: (847) 362-3351

September 12, 2019

Ms. Courtney Avery Board Administrator Health Facilities & Services Review Board Illinois Department of Public Health 525 W. Jefferson Street Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for CON Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Libertyville, LLC

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am a board certified neurosurgeon serving as the Principal of American Center for Spine and Neurosurgery. I am writing today to express my interest and support for this Certificate of Need request for approval to build a 60-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital, Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Libertyville, LLC. In my role as a practicing neurosurgeon, I see the need on a daily basis for intensive inpatient rehabilitation for patients who have suffered a stroke, brain bleeds, cerebral tumors, and spinal cord tumors and injuries. These patients deserve this service to not only have the opportunity to achieve the very best outcomes but also to maintain the very best quality of care.

In my role as the physician market leader for neurosurgery, my work goes beyond supervising our program. Our service is growing rapidly and we are implementing protocols, processes, quality metrics and cuttingedge technology that ensures the best possible physicians are providing the best possible treatment options and outcomes for our patients. Inpatient rehabilitation is critically important for this population of patients. The availability of advanced technology, advanced education and training for the physicians, nurses, and therapists and evidence-based rehabilitation medicine is paramount in the patient's road to optimal recovery and function.

In my 20-plus years as a Neurosurgeon in Lake County, I have learned and experienced that this service is limited, or access is denied by others that do offer inpatient rehabilitation. Since Vista Medical Center West closed their Inpatient Rehabilitation Center, patients and families are traveling over 40 miles to the City of Chicago or further to receive this care. When the patients do get approved and transferred to their inpatient rehabilitation beds, we never see those patients back for follow-up care. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of patients receiving continuity in their healthcare, both as inpatients and outpatients. Our patients in Lake County and the surrounding counties deserve to have all their healthcare needs met, including inpatient rehabilitation, close to home.

As I have personally seen and experienced in my career in other parts of the country, the benefit of inpatient rehabilitation that is close, convenient for patients and families, and that has providers focused on optimal outcomes and quality of life is so very important for the communities we serve. I urge you to support and grant approval for this CON application for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Libertyville, LLC.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Citow, MD Managing Partner

American Center for Spine and Neurosurgery, LLC